

New Education Resource Center now open

# Space Center Houston gearing up for new school year

Space Center Houston is ready for the new school year with a variety of special programs for students.

During the 1997-98 school year, the visitor center will feature special focus weeks in its Outer Space Academy. JSC scientists and engineers will provide special sessions that allow students a chance to experience space close-up. Teachers can pickup education material in the Education Resource Center and receive a two-week module of across-the-curriculum classroom activities designed to meet the national standards in science and math. During the year students may participate in:

**Oct. 13-17 Mission to Mars**—Is there really life on Mars? Students get to see a real Mars meteorite and talk with experts.

**Nov. 4-7 Meet an Astronaut**—Students can find out how to become part of the aerospace team.

**Dec. 9 Discovery Day**—This day is dedicated to students who are visually and hearing impaired.

**Dec. 15-19 Home School**—Students who learn at home will have the opportunity to participate in special activities and demonstrations.

**Jan. 12-16 Training in Microgravity**—Students will learn how astronauts train for working and living in space.

**Feb. 9-13 Robots in Space**—Students will have the opportunity to work a robotic arm and other equipment.

**Feb. 16-20 Careers in Space**—Students

can find out what lies ahead for the space program.

**March 23-27 We Have Liftoff**—Students will learn what Newton's Law and space travel have in common. Activities will focus on the rocketry, propulsion and physics of space flight.

**April 6-10 Living in Space**—Students can learn what happens to the human body and mind during prolonged periods of weightlessness.

**April 20-24 Spinoffs Week**—Students may be amazed to see how the space program benefits everyday lives.

**April 27-May 1 Home School Week**—Students who learn at home will have the opportunity to participate in special activities

and demonstrations.

**May 11-15 Tools in Space**—Students may learn more about working in space and what tools are used to accomplish tasks.

A special session has been included to prepare teachers for the new school year. Teachers may visit Space Center Houston at 6 p.m. Sept. 16 and preview the newest IMAX film, visit the Educator Resource Center, experience one-sixth gravity on the ILunar jumper, drive a lunar rover through a simulated Apollo mission and register to win two airline tickets. Free classroom material also will be available.

For additional information on Space Center Houston's education program call 281-244-2145.

## New display to highlight U.S., Russian space history

Employees may spend Halloween on Mars

Space Center Houston will premiere a new collection of historical space artifacts this fall and offer a special NASA night for employees for Halloween.

"Rendezvous: From Cold War to Cooperation" is a historical collection representing the Soviet Union and Russian space programs from the Cold War years to today's era of cooperation. Many of these rare artifacts were considered top secret and hidden from public view, while other pieces are from private collections around the world. The exhibit will go on display in November and remain until May.

This five-part collection chronicles the U.S. and Russian programs beginning with artifacts from 1945 to 1949. The next era in space history, Race To The Moon, will feature artifacts from the Russian program and NASA's Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs.

Cooperation is the highlight of the Apollo-Soyuz and Skylab display and the Shuttle-Mir program display. The latter display will feature a walk through a Mir mockup. The final display will focus on the future and the International Space Station.

Other artifacts include Russian vehicles, satellites and probes, personal items of the cosmonauts, Russian film footage, photos and historical documents. The display will educate the public about the Russian program and the sharing of information technology between the U. S. and Russia.

Space Center Houston members will have the opportunity to preview the new display Oct. 11 and 12 in a special overnight preview.

Members will meet Astronaut Peggy Whitson, see the IMAX film "Mission to Mir" build a model space station and sleep under the stars in the Starship Gallery. Dinner, complete with a Russian desert and continental breakfast, is included. Members may attend this special showing at a cost of \$40 per person or \$140 for a family of four. Non-members may attend for \$45 per person and \$160 for a family of four. For reservations and information call 281-283-7774.

For Halloween, Space Center Houston is geared up to transport visitors to Mars. Trips to Mars will feature several children's activities including storytellers on a Martian terrain. A voyage to Mars will be available from 4-7 p.m. Oct. 17-18; Oct. 24-25 and Oct. 27-Nov. 1. One of these dates will be set aside for NASA employees and their families. Details are still in the planning stages. Look to future Space News Roundups for more information.

Other activities currently planned for this fall include Junior Space Explorers camp. Space Center Houston member's children ages 3-5 can be junior space explorers experiencing space-out stories times and hands-on activities. All camps are held from 10 a.m.-noon. Camps are: Sept. 13 Dmitri The Astronaut; Oct. 11 The Three Astronauts; Nov. 8 I Want To Be An Astronaut and Dec. 13 Santa, NASA And The Man In The Moon. To register for these special camps call Diane Kane at 281-244-2164.

JSC civil service employees may attend the exhibit and Halloween activities for free. Employees must show badges at the door.



Photo courtesy of Space Center Houston

**500,00TH GUEST**—Former Astronaut and Lockheed Martin's Science Engineer Analysis and Test Program Vice President Ken Reightler congratulates Alicia Tenao Peurce of Buenos Aires, Argentina, who won a free trip to an actual space shuttle launch. Peurce was the lucky 500,000th visitor of 1997 to Space Center Houston this month, earning her the trip. Peurce walked through the turnstile at the visitor's entrance amid a massive balloon drop and celebratory sirens. President Richard Allen and Reightler were on hand to congratulate the winner of a trip for four to Kennedy Space Center. "By coming to Space Center Houston, our guests are already demonstrating their interest in and support for the exploration of space and the special kind of fun we offer at the center," Allen said. "So we think our guests will be very excited at the opportunity to actually witness the space program in action by attending a launch of the space shuttle. This is a very exciting time for Space Center Houston as well, since we're enjoying record-setting attendance for the summer." The first 500 guests on hand the day Peurce walked through the sliding glass doors shared in the celebration and the visitor center's fifth anniversary by receiving complimentary commemorative tickets from the grand opening, Space Center Houston flags that were flown aboard the shuttle and free anniversary cake.

## Mission to Mir' IMAX film highlights first dockings

Space Center Houston's IMAX theater is currently featuring a new film that documents international cooperation in space.

The movie, "Mission to Mir," was produced in cooperation with cosmonauts and astronauts who participated in missions to the Russian station. With a cast of 36 Russian and American space-farers, the film highlights three *Atlantis*-Mir dockings and includes the first IMAX footage of a Soyuz launch.

In order to film the 40-minute feature, eight astronauts received extensive training in the use of the bulky 85 pound IMAX cameras.

"Of course in space it's zero gravity, but the camera has a lot of inertia," said Astronaut Charlie Precourt. "Once we got it moving, it was a challenge to try and stop it from crashing into a wall."

"Mission to Mir" is the latest of five IMAX films produced in space. The 15/70 IMAX for-

mat uses film that is 10 times the size of the 35mm standard. IMAX films are shown in specially-constructed and Space Center Houston houses the largest IMAX in Texas.

The film highlights the new international partnership in space and the complexities of life in zero gravity conditions. "I think audiences will come away feeling that it is possible for people of different nationalities and cultures to live and work together on such an

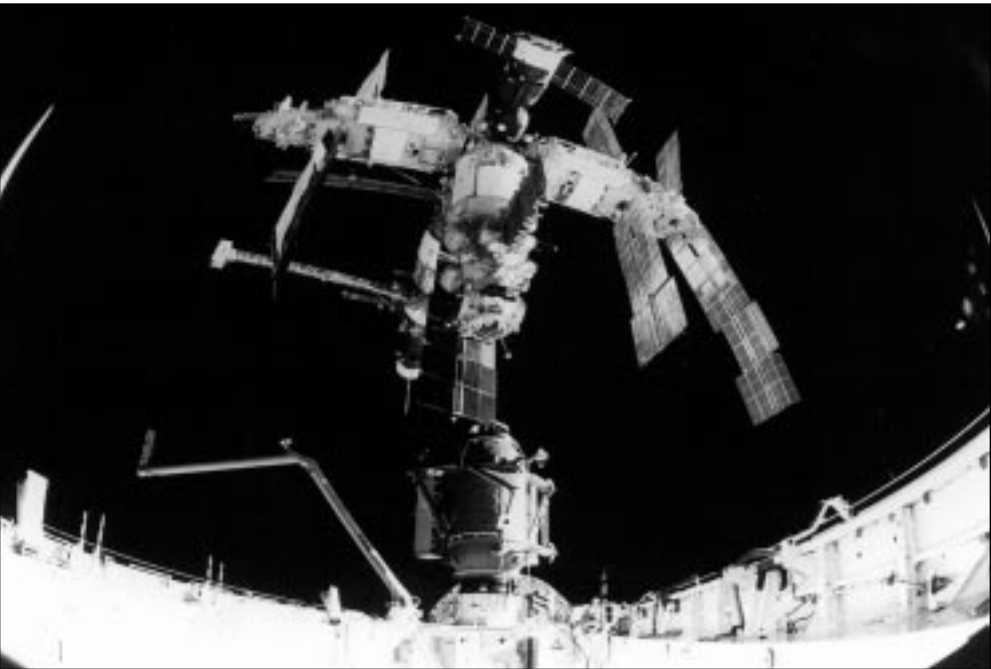
important venture as space exploration," said IMAX producer Toni Meyers.

Crews on Earth also filmed extensively at both JSC and the Star City cosmonaut facility, providing a unique look at Russian and American training techniques.

JSC civil service employees may view the new film and other Space Center Houston attractions for free. Employees must present their badge at the gate for free admission.



A scene from Space Center Houston's IMAX film shows from left Astronaut Charlie Precourt, Cosmonaut Gennady Strekalov and Astronauts Bonnie Dunbar and Greg Harbaugh.



The IMAX film 'Mission to Mir' at Space Center Houston documents the STS-74 docking of *Atlantis* to the Russian Mir Space Station. The film and a new fall display will highlight the cooperative effort of the U.S. and Russia during the Shuttle Mir Phase 1 Program.